

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



Big Ben In London at Night

Its Sonorous Peals Will Announce The New Year

(See article page 819)

LAWS THAT ARE IMMUTABLE

By PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK JR.

OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

THERE are abroad among us, men, and women also, who are preaching doctrines that are destructive of the very fibre of our civilization. I hear now and again, and here and there, the doctrine of "free love." There are those among you who would teach your children that the sexual desire is like any other biological desire, as hunger and thirst, and should be indulged in with as little restraint and control as we eat and drink. Nothing baser has been conceived by satan than this doctrine.

President Clark

FEW can speak on world trends and law with the authority of President J. Reuben Clark Jr. He is an international lawyer of the first order. Among the positions of importance he has held are United States counsel before the British-American Claims Commission, special counsel to the United States Department of State in preparing the agenda for the Conference on Limitation of Armaments, United States ambassador to Mexico and United States delegate to The Pan-American Peace conference in South America. He is now president of the Foreign Bondholders' Protective council.

Born in a Utah Pioneer village, Grantsville, September 1, 1871, President Clark rode the range as a boy and as a young man put himself through college.

Brothers and sisters, watch your families, your children. Teach them, honour them, lead them away from this terrible sin. I was taught by my parents that they would rather carry me to the grave than that I should lose my virtue, and I thank God for that teaching. Until we come to that teaching, until that is the feeling and the thought of the Latter-day Saints, lust will stalk among us and take his toll.

There is sometimes a cry among our young people for a loosening of our standards. They tell us that our standards are too high, and the Church must abate them. My brothers and sisters, my young people, the Church cannot change the laws of God. They stand immutable. We may change the rules; we may say that a drunkard may go into the temple; we may say that a blasphemer may go into the temple; we may say that he who drinks tea and coffee may go into the temple. These rules we may change. But we cannot change the biological law that he who uses narcotics must pay the penalty somehow, somewhere, sometime—he

himself or his children or his children's children. And this is the tragedy and the curse of disobeying nature's laws and God's laws.

Let us awaken. Let us bring into our hearts the Gospel. Let us live it, for if we do God will surely bless us.—(Adapted from a sermon delivered at the 106th semi-annual conference of the Church in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.)

FACING THE NEW YEAR

By President Joseph J. Cannon

THE New Year crowds the old aside and pushes it back into history. Meanwhile the British saints look expectantly on the possibilities of 1936. We are not a complacent group waiting at the weakness of our efforts in bringing our message to the serious attention of the millions among whom we live.

First, let us face the fact that conversions are seriously below what they were formerly. In the last three years faith has not lessened as evidenced by the increase of baptisms of members' children and of payment of tithes over the three preceding years. But while the number of missionaries has gone down only 25 per cent, the baptisms of converts have decreased more than fifty per cent. As proselyting is a heavy responsibility upon us, we should consider this reduction and try to determine its causes.

Perhaps we can look for it in an unexpected quarter.

During the last few years there has been a definite tendency to organize the Mission on the pattern of the wards and stakes. The Mutual Improvement associations have been emphasized greatly. The Primary has become a recognized institution in most of the branches in the Mission. The auxiliaries have supervisors in each district. Their officers are all local members, and naturally the active and vital ones are engaged in the work.

Of the 73 branches of the Mission, all but three are organized with local Priesthood as presidents and counsellors. In 1935 all districts, 14, were altered in their structure. Instead of travelling elders presiding over them they were placed under the direction of a president and two counsellors.

All these changes are desirable and strengthen the Church. They pro-

vide an activity for the youth and increase faith in the children. They will lessen drifting and apostacy. The Primary and M. I. A. will be in time great proselyting agencies. But today they have absorbed the activities of the saints. There are a few tracting societies left in the branches. Very few local missionaries are carrying on. The zealous workers are putting their thought and their effort into the auxiliaries or the branch or district organizations.

Striking 1936

WHEN Big Ben (see cover) in London strikes at midnight next Tuesday, another chapter in the British mission will be closed, a new one opened. In this article President Cannon gives a key for greater progress and happiness during the New Year.

Big Ben, overlooking the Thames from its high position in Clock Tower of Houses of Parliament in London, has been striking in new years since 1858. Named for Sir Benjamin Hall, First Commissioner of Works at the time the bell was cast, the famous clock's minute hands are 14 feet long, the hour hands nine feet. The bell, whose resonant notes are now carried around the world by wireless broadcast, weighs 13½ tons. Big Ben has four dials, each 22½ feet in diameter.

Roughly estimated, 75 per cent of those who come into the Church make their first interesting contact through members. This does not mean that the travelling elders convert only 25 per cent, for it is often by their labour that the casual inquirer is taught the Gospel and finds faith. Manifestly the Church should grow from the members telling the good news to their friends. If they fail, the work will come to a standstill. And if they fail, the Lord will reject them, for He has commanded that every man warn his neighbour.

Two factors are hindering the progress of the Gospel in this land today.

One is the lack of love for those in the Church.

The other is the lack of love for those outside.

When concord fails among the membership, when jealousy is manifested, when backbiting and evil speaking are indulged in, the investigator is repulsed. How great shall be the joy of one who brings a soul to the truth! How great shall be the misery of one who drives a soul from the truth!

The Lord has said in this generation, "If ye are not one, ye are not mine." Think of that you members of the branches of this Mission. Are you truly one with each other? If you are not, can you claim to be the Lord's? And if you are not the Lord's, whose are you? Was it an idle word when He commanded us to love our enemies? If we must love those who hate us, may we not love those who are bound to us by the brotherhood of the covenant?

SOMETIMES friendliness exists among the membership and yet investigators turn away from our meetings although brought there at the cost of much persuasion of the travelling elders. They feel they are not welcome. It seems plain that some of our people fear that if new members come into the Church they may lose positions they hold in the branch or its auxiliaries.

But how little and wicked such an attitude is! How contrary to the spirit of the prayer offered when hands were laid on their heads to set them apart!

After all, the two greatest commandments involve love, first to God and then to our neighbours. Love is a stimulating emotion that sanctifies, strengthens, broadens, sweetens the soul. It heals the sick body. It makes friends. It turns away the wrath of enemies. It tears down the walls of disappointment and bitterness with which men imprison themselves. It makes marriage a sweet relationship instead of a galling yoke. It makes parents sacrifice for children and children desire to beautify the old age of their parents. It is the divine ointment that takes the friction out of living. It is the mantle that will cover our blemishes when we seek entrance at the gate of heaven.

If love prevails in all our hearts the work of the Lord will prosper greatly during the New Year that is dawning. God grant that we may deeply love all His children both within and outside the fold.

THE best teachers of humanity are the lives of great men.—C. H. FOWLER.

IN A NORFOLK COTTAGE

By Elder W. Jay Eldredge

TWO unique looking men wearily trudged down a cottage-lined street, knocking on the doors as they went. One on each side of the lane, they engaged the occupants in conversation and occasionally left literature. Their peculiarity was not in face or figure, but in dress. Their activities were an unusual thing for such a quiet farming town as North Walsham. This little village rising from the level plains of Norfolk had its peddlers to be sure, but none was so well dressed as these.

Joy With Years

HERE is an interesting story of an elderly Latter-day Saint couple of Norfolk whose life strands of nearly ninety years are beaded with many inspiring experiences. These nonagenarians unhesitatingly attribute their longevity to living Latter-day Saint teachings.

William Lyon Phelps, author of several books on English literature, once said: "We grow happier as we grow older." The lives of Brother and Sister James Loads of North Walsham branch bear out this statement.

With studious care, one of them stopped to open the gate of 32 Norwich road, his angular position emphasizing the swallow-tail dip in the back of his long, black coat. His attire followed a colour scheme of black from bowler, tie, peg-leg trousers to shoes. In glittering contrast was a heavy gold chain which bobbed from one vest pocket to another. He proceeded along a garden-bordered path toward the little red-bricked cottage.

He was undaunted but tired, for most people were prejudiced against the Mormons in those days.

He sounded the knocker. Elizabeth Jarvis Loads answered, and then listened to her caller's message, for she had never, in her 55 years, turned anyone from her door. He handed her a pamphlet, *Rays of Living Light*. The title immediately electrified her.

"Rays of living light—why that is just what the world and I need," she exclaimed.

A discussion on Mormonism followed. He explained how the Lord had revealed Himself to a Prophet in this day and restored His Church, which had been taken from the earth because men began to pervert it with their own teachings and interpretations.

Cheerfully he bade her goodbye. Such conversations were not common in the day's tracting.

When her husband returned that evening, Mrs. Loads related the incident to him. He became interested, too. Under a lamp suspended from the low ceiling of their cottage, together they comparably studied two books—the Bible and the pamphlet. Mrs. Loads felt the truth of the message from her conversation with the missionary. Her husband, too, was convinced, and remarked: "If it is true, then my religion is worthless, and I know it is true."

The pamphlet's message had sounded the death knell for Methodism so far as he was concerned. Their testimonies

grew and six months later they were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Thirty-two years later I opened the same gate and trod up the same path as my missionary brother had done. I probably was even more pleasantly surprised with the cottage, its low door and small windows. It was with keen anticipation that I let the knocker fall, for I was to meet Brother James Loads, who would be ninety years of age March 7, 1936, and Sister Elizabeth Loads who became 88 years of age November 5, 1935.

The door opened. Before me stood a woman whose blue eyes and rosy cheeks belied her age. Her wavy, silver hair was done in a bob in the back. She presented a charming picture framed by the casing of the low door.

I was ushered in to meet Brother Loads, who grasped my hand with both of his and shook it vigorously. His hair was gray too, yet thin. I watched this grand old couple sink familiarly into their favourite chairs, and then listened to them narrate their interesting life's story.

Their life in the Church is an unusual one. North Walsham people were slow to sense the value of the new Gospel message, and the Loads family were the only ones in that farming village to open their home to the elders. Less than a month after the first contact with the Church, regular cottage meetings were being held in their home. From these gatherings a handful of people became interested and soon about a dozen members comprised the branch. Approximately 1,700 sacrament meetings have been held in their home, in which they have lived for sixty years.

ALL meetings were not as peaceful as the ones held there today. In days past crowds would gather outside their door, and as the saints would sing they would accompany with howls and would throw rocks and debris at their home. A peace-loving neighbour appealed to the police, and for many months promptly at 6:30 o'clock each Sunday evening, as the saints gathered for worship, a uniformed "bobbie" would patrol in front of their home.

At one time Sister Loads was showered with rocks, missiles and shouts of "Old Mother Mormon" when she helped the elders get away from a street meeting which incensed mobsters had turned into pandemonium.

Not everyone disliked the couple for the strength of their conviction. Their diligence brought the Gospel to others. Among them were Brother and Sister George Wright, natives of North Walsham and at present residents of Springville, Utah. They expressed their heartfelt thanks and love in a recent letter, an excerpt of which reads: "We are thankful for the courage you had that enabled us to hear the truth from your fireside, and thankful that we had the courage to embrace the same. It has been the greatest thing that ever came into our lives, and we say, 'God bless you both.'"

The Loads never let an opportunity for preaching the Gospel pass by. A recent convert, Brother Percy Durham, was an insurance collector at their home. He joined the Church after hearing the message of Mormonism from Sister Loads each week for seven years.

As Brother and Sister Loads approach ninety years of age, they are still active in domestic duties. Monday morning finds Sister Loads before a tub vigorously rubbing the clothes in and out of the fluffy suds. Brother Loads watchfully stands by, picking up dropped pieces of laundry, keeping the fire hot under the boiler and performing odd chores. Tuesday means ironing, Wednesday shopping in the village. Each day is a busy day. Saturday is full too, for there are tasty foods to prepare for the missionaries who will hold meetings at their home the next day.

James Loads formerly worked as a decorator, providing for his wife and two children. For many years he went about the countryside brightening homes with paint and paper. At one time he travelled to Sandringham, and with a corps of workers painted Queen Victoria's East Anglia residence while King Edward was yet the Prince of Wales. As business grew slack, he found employment in an ironmonger's shop, where he worked until his retirement four years ago. He has not forgotten his talent as a decorator. Only last year he papered his own home and completely redecorated a neighbour's residence.

THE Loads explain their recipe for longevity as "living the principles of the Church and praying night and morning for health and strength." Brother Loads suggests countryside walking as a fine supplementary aid.

They have lived faithful to the Gospel standards, and one could expect to find the Lord's blessings in their midst. Miracles make up a part of their blessings. A young sister in the Church brought her deaf and dumb husband to the Loads home to attend the meetings. After attending for several weeks, the woman told those assembled that her husband wished to be administered to by the elders. It was with tears of joy that they heard this same brother read from the Book of Mormon at their meeting the following Sunday. He was healed.

The Lord has watched over them in sickness. At one time a growth developed just below Sister Load's knee, and soon grew to the proportion of a pigeon's egg. Upon visiting the doctor, she was told that arrangements should be made for her to enter the hospital and there take an anæsthetic while the growth was removed. She refused, and demanded that the operation be performed then at his office. With nothing to numb her senses and without anything to cover her eyes, she watched the doctor cut out the growth. She declares that she experienced no pain. The doctor offered to take her home in his car, but she refused. Four days later when she returned to his office, he exclaimed, "The wound is healed!" His ineffable query was answered with, "I am a Mormon."

Domestic duties do not occupy all their time, and they make their leisure time an activity time. In true "Darby and Joan" fashion they have like hobbies and interests. Once a month each is circuted to speak at the sacrament meeting in their branch. Nothing gives them greater pleasure than to speak on the first principles of the Gospel: faith, repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Sister

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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1935

EDITORIAL

LOOKING BOTH WAYS

THE year 1935 is drawing to a close; the New Year is at hand. It is customary at this period of the year for thoughtful people to look both ways—backwards and forwards. If properly done, much good may be derived from the exercise. The past of each one of us has been marred by mistakes; the future should be free from these same mistakes. But this can be only if we profit by experience—make the mistakes become well-learned lessons that tell us how not to repeat. Experience can be the best of teachers if we make it so.

For each of us the future is more or less hidden in clouds of uncertainty and of the unknown. Perhaps this is well; a foreknowledge of unavoidable, unpleasant experiences would sadden our outlook, dampen our joys, or discourage our efforts. But lessons learned from past mistakes should be useful guides in directing our course in the present and help to make us strong to resist temptation and skilful in avoiding handicaps imposed by wrong-doing. To plan the course ahead of us as best the circumstances and our limited knowledge and ability will permit is to exercise our intelligence, a prerogative divinely given us. It is to do what wisdom dictates.

All of us have made mistakes. Will we profit by them or foolishly repeat them? All of us have failed in one or many ways. Do we want to go on failing? We have yielded to many temptations that we know we should have resisted. Are we going to continue to yield? The Lord has given us our free agency. We may do in these matters as we elect. But one thing we should remember—we shall have to pay in some way or another for the mistakes, follies and sins we commit, especially when we knowingly do wrong.

Members of the Church have voluntarily covenanted by going into the waters of baptism to do their sins no more. Hence it is their duty, in the performance of which they always experience satisfaction, to try to avoid the errors of the past. A retrospective examination of the causes of past failures in conduct should always be in order, especially at this time of the year. We are soon to enter upon another year. It certainly is a desirable time to wipe the slate clean and begin the New Year with a strong resolve to live more wisely, and more righteously during 1936 than we have during 1935. To this end we should strive harder

to overcome our weaknesses, discipline ourselves more completely and be more energetic in our services to God and our fellow men.

But we shall find the tempter ever near. It is his purpose to lead us astray in sundry ways. He will attack us where we are weakest. Are we inclined to be jealous of our friends, to find fault with them, to be hard-hearted and indifferent to the sufferings of our neighbours, to be neglectful of our obligations, to lose our tempers and be easily irritated, to be selfish and fail to remember the Lord with our tithes and fast offerings, to neglect our daily prayers, to sinfully indulge our passions and appetites, to fail in showing forth love to our fellow men and in numerous other ways to fail in pure and righteous living? Let us examine ourselves searchingly with a sincere and persistent desire to discover our faults and failings and develop a determination, with the Lord's help, to be a better saint during the coming year than we have been during the past one.

It may not be easy to do this. It is always easier to drift than to row, to yield than to resist. But saints are developed by work and struggle, not by indolence and surrender. God's favours are not won without effort. We are dedicated to His service. His rewards are made at the moment they are won and are always accompanied by a feeling of joy and satisfaction that money cannot buy. Because these feelings always characterize His rewards we can never be in doubt when we have pleased Him. And He will never fail to manifest His pleasure when we have merited it.

In humility and purity of heart let us try to merit His love by living righteously all the day long. If we can succeed in doing this, the New Year will be the best year we have had—more real satisfactions and joy. God grant that it may be so.—
JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

A NEW "STAR" FEATURE

PURSuing its policy of providing the most material possible for its subscribers, the *Millennial Star* has an announcement this issue which should be interesting as well as pleasing to all its family of readers. Beginning with the New Year, a special Auxiliary Guide supplement will accompany the *Star*, each month. The Guide, carefully prepared as usual by Mission auxiliary heads, will be more complete than precious space has permitted those in the past to be. With the Guide removed from the pages of the *Star*, there will be more room for your Mission magazine to bring to you more articles expounding the principles of the Gospel and more news of the Church and the Mission. The *Star's* aim is to give you as many clear, succinct and interesting articles as possible. There will be no increase in subscription price.—THE EDITORS.

AUXILIARY GUIDE FOR JANUARY

PRIESTHOOD

EACH week the branch president should ask for a report of the activities of the Priesthood members during that week. He should hear the reports of tracting, visiting of saints and special work. Assignments for the following week should be made. What time remains after these things should be devoted to the topics given in the Quorum Bulletin of the Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lessons.—CONWAY A. ASHTON.

RELIEF SOCIETY

First Week. Theology and Testimony. Preliminary programme: Talk on "How and When the Relief Society Was Organized." Also treat some of the important counsel given by the Prophet Joseph Smith. This information can be obtained from the Relief Society *Handbook*. Lesson: The Prophet of Nauvoo. Objective: To show that despite persecution both in and out of the Church, the Lord's work showed great progress under the direction of the Prophet. To also show the devotion to the Prophet by his wife, Emma Smith, during this trying part of his mission.

Second Week. Teachers' Topic. Lesson: Forgiveness. Objective: To show how necessary it is to put the old law of retaliation behind us, if we wish to mould our character on the divine plan. To show also how the spirit of forgiveness spreads peace and contentment in place of bitterness and contention, which follows the spirit of revenge.

Third Week. Preliminary programme: Brief retold story of one of Barrie's works, or have a sister tell how she was impressed by reading Barrie's works. Objective: To show how one's character can permeate one's work through life. Also show that courage is a great gift from God. Have as many sisters as possible read *Quality Street*, and discuss it in class.

Fourth Week. Health Lessons. Lesson: Care of eyes. Preliminary programme: A reading, selected. Objective: To show the great necessity for caring for the eyes, for sight is one of God's greatest gifts to man. And, though He has provided safeguards, through carelessness, ignorance, and unchastity many thousands are compelled to live in darkness.—HELEN E. M. POOLE, OF THE MISSION BOARD.

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

THIS year the genealogical course will be taken from Apostle Joseph Fielding Smith's excellent Gospel study book, *The Way to Perfection*. The genealogical lesson manual will be produced as cheaply as possible and the price will be announced later. It will be made in the form of an outline, so that wherever it is possible, branches should procure a copy of the book itself from the Mission Bookstore.—CONWAY A. ASHTON.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

AT the close of the year it is a wise thing to look back over the trail of the past to see if we have travelled straight and true. Elder Conway A. Ashton, as Mission superintendent, and the gallant little army of Sunday School officers and teachers throughout the Mission have done

their work well during 1935. Because of faithful labour, peaks of accomplishment have been attained, and because of accomplishment the morale of this corps is excellent. What a firm tribute to Elder Ashton as he leaves for home and what a source of joy to those out on the firing lines teaching the Gospel in the schools!

With a new year and a New Mission Board, we are preparing to continue the excellent work. In wishing you all the greatest happiness and success throughout 1936, we also pray for your continued united support. We want to help you, help make your tasks easier and your work more enjoyable. And in all our labours and relations let us zealously and unselfishly act "for the good of the work."—ELDER BERTRAM T. WILLIS OF THE MISSION BOARD.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY JOINT PROGRAMME

Organ or piano prelude: Five minutes before opening.

Hymn: "Come Let Us Anew," page 195.

Invocation.

Talk: "Happiness." Building in the home a foundation for happiness.

M. I. A. Chorus or Special Group: "Home Sweet Home."

Address: "How the M. I. A. Can Help One to Progress and Find Joy in Life."

Special Musical Number: by M. I. A. members.

Address: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Hymn.

Benediction.

FOR JANUARY

A Gold and Green Ball—a district function—the outstanding social event of the M. I. A., and later in the month, or in February, a Gold and Green Dance—a Branch affair.

DRAMA IN MARCH

A delightful one-act play, "Birds of a Feather," can be obtained from the Mission Bookstore at five pence. It requires no royalty for M. I. A. production and is recommended by the Mission M. I. A. Boards. Plan now to produce "Birds of a Feather" in March.

EXECUTIVES

You will find the *M. I. A. Executive Guide* a valuable reference in M. I. A. supervision and organization—Sixpence at the Mission Bookstore.

CONTEST WORK

To be announced in the February *Star* Guide. Watch for it.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

THE New Year brings a time when most people are conscious of past mistakes and opportunities of the future. From the past comes the custom of "New Year's Resolutions." Will that custom carry over into your Primary and thus help to make a finer Association in 1936? If you are making Primary resolutions, may we suggest a few topics? Are you following the Mission outline as closely as you should? Are your reports accurate and on time each month? Does your Primary have at least one Primary teaching *Handbook* which you can consult when problems confront you in your classes? Have you done the best you

can in collecting the dues assigned? Is your Primary divided into classes properly where you have teachers and rooms available.

A visit has been made to every district. We recognize that in some places your working conditions are far from ideal. Facing these, we ask you to keep your aims high and to go forward with determination. We promise you that success will come, The Primary Mission Board sends you the best possible wishes for success, joy and peace in 1936. We pray sincerely that the blessings of the Lord will come to you as you teach His little ones to walk "in the footsteps of the Master."—ELIZABETH CORNWALL, PRIMARY SUPERVISOR.

IN A NORFOLK COTTAGE

(Concluded from page 823)

Loads especially likes to teach the necessity of an active religion and the fallacy of the belief that "by grace alone are ye saved." Brother Loads is still branch Sunday School superintendent.

Once each week for 32 years the *Millennial Star* has entered their home. All copies are filed and preserved in wooden boxes.

Dread and fear of old age have been laughed at in this home, for reclining years have brought happiness. Realizing that life is made mellow and full by experience and that age brings experience, they welcome it. With their knowledge of the eternal nature of life they accept old age as a joyous experience and a God-given extension enabling them to better plan and prepare themselves to take their place in God's heavenly kingdom.

FAST OFFERINGS

THE question arises as to what extent the principle of fasting and giving of fast offering is being taught in the various branches. Fasting, under proper conditions and for specific purposes, is a powerful means of spiritual growth. When coupled with donation of the equivalent cost of meals which would otherwise be eaten, it serves also as a very practical and charitable act.

Many of the older Latter-day Saints, and, we think, especially the younger members of the Church, are failing to observe this vital principle, and to obtain the blessings that follow. If we keep this fast with prayers for the welfare of those not so fortunate, and with gifts of the proper amounts, we are doing collectively that which will be most effective for the aid of those in distress, for our own spiritual development, and without any sacrifice except that of our abstinence. In view of the prevailing economic conditions, the Church members generally should be encouraged to faithfully observe this principle and to donate liberally for relief.—THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC.

THE BUILDING FUND CONTEST

ONLY 19 days remain for branches to strengthen their positions in the Mission Building Fund contest, which closes January 15. Prizes amounting to £17-10-0 await the three branches accumulating the most funds before that date.

LONDON DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE autumn series of 14 district conferences, all of which have been conducted by local district presidencies, came to a close Sunday, December 15, with the holding of London district conference in Kensington Town hall, London.

Speaking before 239 persons at the evening session, President Joseph F. Merrill told of the distinguishing features of Mormonism, emphasizing the Book of Mormon, which he said was the most wonderful Book in the world because of the story surrounding its origin. Another evening speaker was President Joseph J. Cannon, who showed how the Lord brought about His great works in humble surroundings and circumstances, as in the case of the Saviour's birth and the life of Joseph Smith, His modern prophet. Elder Lane W. Adams, Mission secretary, also spoke.

President Cannon, Dr. Ray M. Russell, Mission Y.M.M.I.A. superintendent; Sister Katherine L. M. Horner, Mission Y.W.M.I.A. president, and Supervising Elder Richard G. Harston spoke in the afternoon. Participants on the M. I. A. pro-

gramme, conducted by Elder Bertram T. Willis, were Brother Ernest Hawks (Boy Scout), Sister Alice Bickerstaff (Bee-Hive), Sister Constance Rayment (Gleaner), Sister Majorie McCormick (Y. W. M. I. A. Adult) and Brother William C. McCormick (Y.M.M.I.A. Adult).

Speakers at the morning services, which followed a testimony meeting, were Elders Blaine F. Bybee, Parley P. Giles, William A. Berry, Claudius E. Stevenson, Ormond S. Coulam, Frank E. Ellis and Angus I. Nicholson.

Vocal music at the sessions was provided by the Mission M Men and Harmony Four quartettes, London district choir (directed by Dr. Ray M. Russell), London district Singing Mothers (directed by Sister Ada Harris) and Sister Inez Cameron Russell. All meetings were conducted by District President Andre K. Anastasiou.

A social and concert, featuring numbers by the quartettes and district choir, novelty dances by Miss Rita Burton (Britain's "Shirley Temple") and short plays by Boy Scouts and Bee-Hive Girls, was held Saturday evening, December 14, in Battersea Town hall.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Congratulations on his mission to Denmark last summer in behalf of the people of Utah were recently received by Elder Andrew Jenson, assistant Church historian, from the Royal Danish ambassador at Washington D.C., Mr. Otto Wadsted. Elder Jenson officially presented a replica of a Mormon Pioneer wagon to Rebild National Park association in Copenhagen July 4 (*Star* July 4). The ambassador pointed out that he, with several friends, listened to Elder Jenson's Copenhagen radio address at the legation in Washington D.C.

Biography entitled *Yankie Arms Maker*, by Jack Rohan, on the life of Samuel Colt, inventor of the Colt revolver and business executive, has recently been turned off the

press (Harper and Brothers, 1935). It is interesting to note that Colt admired the leadership of Brigham Young, second President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Said he of President Young: "He is the one really great leader living. . . . A true statesman who knows how to rule and does so. . . . A builder and a man who can vision the future."

Mutual Improvement Association work is stimulating new interest in the message of Mormonism in Mexico, according to President Harold W. Pratt of Mexican mission. He reports that in the Republic of Mexico 11 natives are doing missionary work now, whereas until a year ago there had been none.

OF CURRENT INTEREST

Success—Sir George Hunter, the poor boy who left school at 13 years of age but who became head of the £9,000,000 company of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, shipbuilders, recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday anniversary. He has built 1,518 ships, among them the *Mauretania*. Writing in the *Sunday Express* (December 15, 1935) on his key to success, he gave this advice: "Looking back over my life, I am convinced that reliability and hard work were two reasons for whatever success I have had. . . . Always remember: 'Duty and love to man and God.' . . . I had a constitution that could stand anything. I never drank—and gave up smoking when I was eight. . . . Yes! I tried my first pipe of tobacco when I was in my father's barque. I never finished it. The steward came on deck, saw that it was causing me some discomfort, to say the least, and offered to finish it for me. I've never been able to understand the enjoyment of tobacco since then."

Driving—Ill effects of alcohol on motor car drivers was shown in the scientific experiments of Paul Bahnsen and K. Vedel-Peterson of Psychotechnical Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark. Their study showed that a person who had imbibed .6 of a cubic centimeter of alcohol was 9.7 per cent slower on selective reaction to stimulus. In other words, it would take him five to eight feet longer to stop when driving at forty miles per hour. The experiments also revealed that the "alcohol" group was 17.4 per cent slower on muscular reaction; they made 35.3 per cent more errors on concentration of attention, and 59.7 per cent more errors on a test measuring coordination. (*Atlantic Monthly*, April, 1935).

Peace Plan—The Italo-Abysinian war, entering its fourth month and the political situation at Parliament, fresh from a general election (*Star* November 21), have assumed new complexions as a result of the formation and jettisoning of the Paris Peace Plan. Convinced that it was the only method of peaceably ending the African conflict,

Foreign Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare of Britain and Premier Pierre Laval of France drew up the Peace Plan in Paris early in December. It provided for an exchange of territories in northeastern Africa, ceding portions of Ethiopia to Italy and in turn supplying Abyssinia with an outlet to the sea. With the rejection of the Peace Plan by Parliament, Sir Samuel resigned as Foreign Secretary (December 18). As a result, both the Government and the League of Nations are confronted with the problem of what moves will next be taken in dealing with the war. Application by the League of oil sanctions on Italy are viewed with apprehension, since Dictator Mussolini of Italy has announced that he will look upon them as military acts and will answer them as such. In Britain the political fate of Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, who admitted an "error of judgment" respecting the drawing of the Peace Plan, remains a matter of conjecture.

Champion—Tommy Loughran, former light heavyweight boxing champion of the world now visiting in Britain, in an interview with True Count of the London *Evening Star* (October 29), told of the importance of abstaining from the use of tobacco and what a struggle he endured to rid himself of the weakening habit. Said he: "I was sitting in the theatre one night, dying for a smoke. Smoking was not allowed, and I thought out my position. The play was interesting, and I had either to miss some of it by going out to have a smoke or stay in and forego the cigarette. 'Was smoking worth getting into a state like this?' I asked myself. I never smoked again."

Disease—Scarless and painless vaccination will soon be introduced, Dr. Lloyd Arnold of University of Illinois recently told a gathering of medical authorities at Indianapolis, Indiana. Fifteen years of research, he said, had revealed that oral vaccination—the simple swallowing of a pill of vaccine—will replace the "shot-in-the-arm" method. The capsule, consisting of dead bacteria, is taken after swallowing a bile pill.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Doings in the Districts—Birmingham—President Joseph F. Merrill of the European mission favoured Kidderminster branch with a visit Sunday, December 8, speaking in the evening services at the branch chapel. Branch President Robert L. Dunn conducted the services.

Hull—Gainsborough branch Sunday School sponsored a concert and supper in the branch rooms Friday, December 13. The programme, which was arranged by Branch President T. J. Mills and Sister Elizabeth B. Mills, included numbers from members of International Order of Good Templars, a talk by Supervising Elder John P. Gleave and community singing. The supper was arranged by Sisters Ellen M. Cavanaugh, Maggie Dunston, Mary A. Story and Elizabeth B. Mills.

Manchester—Elders Franklin W. Gunnell and Woodrow Marriott and Brother Frank T. Pardoe of Hyde branch were guests of Gorton Toc H club Tuesday, December 10. Elder Gunnell spoke on "The

Word of Wisdom" and answered questions which followed. Pamphlets were distributed and a visit of Elders J. Ridge Hicks and Ralph W. Hardy with their Indian demonstration was arranged.

Preaching in Wales

MORE than 400 persons attended a special Sunday evening meeting of the Church in New Royal theatre, Pontypool, Wales, December 8. Supervising Elder Joshua Rallison of Welsh district presided and Brother Benjamin R. Birchall, president of Irish district, was principal speaker. Music was provided by Upper Cwmbran Choral Society under the direction of Mr. Albert Cocker.

Pontypool *Free Press* published a generous article on the meeting. An excerpt reads: "Mr. Birchall studied at Sheffield Theological college and graduated as a Methodist minister in 1889, and in the following year proceeded to Salt Lake City, Utah. Within six months he had embraced the Mormon faith, giving up a salaried position of 150 dollars a month, and proceeded to preach, without salary, the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This he has continued to do ever since. He returned to England in 1896. His present vocation is that of inspector in an Assurance Society of Dublin, and he periodically visits various parts of the United Kingdom on similar missions to that of Sunday."

Elder Rallison writes that "we have been told that we have attracted more to our Sunday evening services than all the rest of the churches in Pontypool put together.

Oldham branch Primary children were entertained at their annual Christmas party Friday, December 13. Father Christmas (Elder Philip J. Badger) distributed presents to the children following a short programme.

A social was held in Oldham branch hall Saturday, December 14, under the auspices of the Relief Society. A feature was the Red Indian demonstration by Elders J. Ridge Hicks and Ralph W. Hardy.

Hyde branch Relief Society sponsored a "Sale of Work" in the branch rooms Saturday, December 7. Elders J. Ridge Hicks and Ralph W.

Hardy told the story of the Book of Mormon with their Red Indian demonstration.

M Men of Hyde branch held a

"Blue Jay's Cabaret" Saturday, December 14, in Hyde branch rooms. The floor show included "Antionette and Pietre," "The Waverley Twins," "Mutch and Moore," "The Melodians" and the "Hilly Billies." Spot dance prizes were awarded and refreshments were served throughout the evening.

Norwich—At a baptismal service held in Norwich branch hall Thursday, December 5, Arthur Henry Jennis was baptized by Elder Joseph H. Black and confirmed by Elder Alma M. Porter, Alvin Ronald Nephi Boar was baptized by Elder Black and confirmed by Brother Thomas Crotch, and Beatrice Eileen Hoskins was baptized and confirmed by Supervising Elder Rex A. Skidmore, who presided at the ceremonies.

Newcastle—Planned by M. I. A. officers under the leadership of Sister Daisy Fudge, Y. W. president, a social and dance was given in South Shields branch Monday, December 16. A feature of the programme was the presentation of singing and dancing by Primary children under the direction of

Sister Myrtle Foster. Presents were distributed to children by Supervising Elder John A. Marcroft, and M. I. A. membership cards were given to the Gleaners by Sister Gladys Quayle, district Y. W. supervisor.

Scottish—A baptismal service was held in Dundee Public baths Sunday, December 8. After a short talk by Elder William R. Firmage, Divine Branton Graham was baptized by Brother John Wright and confirmed by Supervising Elder Roscoe G. Ward on the water's edge.

Welsh—Aided by local artistes, Boy Scouts of Sixty-second Cardiff Latter-day Saint troop gave a concert Wednesday, December 11, in Glanllyn hall, Taffs Well, one of the distressed areas of South Wales, in aid of First Taffs Well troop.

Personal—Sister Elsie May Webb of Dudley Port, Tipton was married Saturday, November 30, to Mr. John Weigh of Dudley Port by Vicar A. L. Chapman of Tipton parish.

DEATH

CUMMINGS—Sister Eunice Susanah Cummings, 88, of St. Albans branch died of lung cancer at 9 Elm Terrace, Harrow Weald, Middlesex December 3, and was interred in

Harrow Weald cemetery following her funeral services December 7. Born in Norwich November 2, 1857, she joined the Church November 3, 1912.

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